

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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INFO USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 389

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7579

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNGA, EAID, XM

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ASST. SECRETARY LEWIS (IO) WITH FOREIGN
SECRETARY GARCIA ROBLES OF MEXICO ON MULTILATERAL AND
UN ISSUES

1. SUMMARY. ASST. SECRETARY LEWIS, AMB. JOVA, AND CHARLES
FRANK ("E") (NOTETAKER) MET WITH MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY
GARCIA ROBLES FOR ABOUT AN HOUR ON EVENING OF JULY 26 FOLLOWING
LENGTHY ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION WITH MEXICAN OFFICIALS EARLIER
IN DAY. (SEPTTEL).

2. AFTER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN PHILOSOPHICAL VEIN ABOUT FUTURE
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OF THE U.N., DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON THREE ISSUES: (A)

PUERTO RICAN STATUS, (B) KOREAN QUESTION, AND (C) PROBLEMS CREATED BY MEXICO'S INCREASINGLY RADICAL STANCE IN A NUMBER OF MULTILATERAL FORA, E.G. WITH RESPECT TO ECOSOC AND THE US PROPOSAL FOR AN ANTI-BRIBERY CONVENTION BEING DISCUSSED THERE. END SUMMARY.

3. LEWIS REVIEWED IN DETAIL THE HISTORY OF OUR POSITION ON PUERTO RICO CITING THE PRESIDENT'S WILLINGNESS TO PROPOSE PUERTO RICO INDEPENDENCE IF AT ANY TIME THE PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATURE OR THE GENERAL ELECTORATE EXPRESSED A CLEAR DESIRE FOR IT. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE

WAS A SENSITIVE INTERNAL MATTER FOR THE U.S. AND IF IT WERE HIGHLIGHTED IN THE UPCOMING U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IT WOULD LEAD TO SHARP POLITICAL CONFRONTATION. LEWIS STATED IN VERY STRONG TERMS THE INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS THAT WOULD ENSUE WERE A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO INDEPENDENCE TO BE PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO REPORTS FROM YUGOSLAVIA WHICH SUGGESTED THAT MEXICO THOUGHT A U.N. SUPERVISED ELECTION IN PUERTO RICO MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

4. GARCIA ROBLES SAID THAT MEXICO HAD NOT "EVEN LIFTED ITS LITTLE FINGER ON PUERTO RICO". HE SAID THAT GOM HAD, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, SAID NOTHING TO THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE OF ANY SORT. ROBLES INDICATED THAT HE WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE U.S. POSITION ON THE PUERTO RICAN ISSUE. HE SAID THAT WHILE HE, AS A LATIN, WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE THE FORMATION OF ANOTHER LATIN COUNTRY SUCH AS PUERTO RICO, IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM THAT THE PUERTO RICANS PREFERRED TO REMAIN WITH THE U.S. HE INDICATED THAT IF A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO WERE DISCUSSED IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MEXICO WOULD BE WITH THE U.S. ON THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MEXICO COULD BE OF LITTLE HELP IN TWO RESPECTS. FIRST, MEXICO HAD A LONG-STANDING POLICY OF BEING WILLING TO SEE ANYTHING DISCUSSED IN THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THAT MEXICO WOULD NOT OPPOSE INSCRIPTION OF IT OR ANY OTHER ISSUE ON THE GA AGENDA. SECOND, MEXICO WOULD PROBABLY BE OF VERY LITTLE HELP AT THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING IN COLOMBO. MEXICO WAS ONLY AN CONFIDENTIAL

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OBSERVER AT THIS MEETING AND IT HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS IN WHICH THE VARIOUS DOCUMENTS FOR THE SUMMIT WERE DRAFTED. (LEWIS REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT MEXICO WOULD BE HELPFUL AT COLOMBO IN THE CORRIDORS AND WITH OTHER LATINYBM FORSEC MERELY SMILED).

5. ON THE QUESTION OF KOREAN UNIFICATION, LEWIS REVIEWED U.S. POSITION AND DESCRIBED PROPOSALS IN THE SECRETARY'S

SEATTLE SPEECH. HE ELABORATED OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE NORTH KOREAN APPROACH, AND LEFT WITH ROBLES A COPY OF EXCERPTS FROM THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH CONTAINS OUR PROPOSALS AND THEIR RATIONALE.

6. GARCIA ROBLES INDICATED HE WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH THE U.S. VIEW. HE SAID THAT THE MEXICAN STANCE IN PAST U.N. DEBATES ON THIS ISSUE HAS BEEN ONE OF "ALOOFNESS". THE MEXICANS DID NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THIS DEBATE SINCE IT WAS SO UNLIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE. HE SAID HE WOULD STUDY CAREFULLY THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS, BUT STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT GOM POSITION ON THE KOREAN ISSUE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.

7. LEWIS THEN EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHAT SEEMED TO BE A PATTERN OF ESCALATING MEXICAN AGGRESSIVENESS IN ATTACKS ON THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS MULTILATERAL FORA. LEWIS WONDERED WHETHER THIS PATTERN WAS MEANT TO SIGNAL SOMETHING TO THE U.S. IF IT WERE, LEWIS WAS ESPECIALLY BAFFLED SINCE OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MEXICO HAS BEEN QUITE GOOD.

8. GARCIA ROBLES SAID THAT ANY SUCH PATTERN WAS NEWS TO HIM HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DID TEND TO BE VERY FRANK, TO CALL A SPADE A SPADE, AND TO ESPOUSE IN STRONG TERMS THE POLITICAL AIMS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

9. LEWIS SAID THAT THE PROBLEM WAS NOT SO MUCH THE STATEMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT, BUT THAT OFFICIALS AT VARIOUS MEETINGS SEEM TO BE GOING OUT OF THEIR WAY TO SHARPEN DIFFERENCES AND CREATE CONFRONTATION. LEWIS MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE CURRENT ECOSOC MEETING IN GENEVA AND ATTEMPTS BY THE MEXICANS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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ORGANIZE BROAD OPPOSITION AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO A U.S. PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON BRIBERY. LEWIS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING SOME MEASURE OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT IN THIS ISSUE IN LIGHT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S DETERMINATION SUPPORT "FULL DISCLOSURE" DOMESTICALLY. HE BELIEVED THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND IN PARTICULAR MEXICO, HAD MUCH TO GAIN FROM TRYING TO DRAFT A CONVENTION OF THE SORT WE HAD PROPOSED.

10. GARCIA ROBLES SAID HE WAS UNINFORMED ON THE ISSUE BUT ASSURED LEWIS THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO IT IMMEDIATELY TO DETERMINE THE REASONS BEHIND THE MEXICAN POSITION.

11. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH LEWIS ON THESE THREE ISSUES, AMBASSADOR JOVA TOD FONMIN ROBLES OF OUR PLAN TO INCREASE

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE OAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION;
HE ASKED TO GOM TO CONSIDER FOLLOWING SUIT. ROBLES ASSURED
JOVA THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LOOK SYMPATHETICALLY ON
THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEXICAN CONTRIBUTION. ROBLES ASKED
AMBASSADOR JOVA WHETHER WE SUPPORTED A STRENGTHENING OF THE
OAS COMMISSION, NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY BUT IN TERMS OF THE
FUNCTION IT SHOULD PERFORM. AMBASSADOR JOVA INDICATED THAT
THE U.S. WAS AGAINST THE CHILEAN PROPOSALS TO RESTRICT THE
FREEDOM OF THE COMMISSION AND THAT WE WOULD BE OPEN TO ANY
MEXICAN SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION
MIGHT BE EXTENDED.

12. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH LEWIS SUGGESTING CLOSER CONSULTATION
IN NEW YORK BETWEEN U.S. AND MEXICAN U.N. DELEGATIONS
TO WHICH FONSECA AGREED.
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